

Peretz Papers

פרץ פאפירן

November - December 2004



the first ever

iFestival Judío!

Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture

Peña ♦ Concert ♦ Lecture
Film ♦ Workshop ♦ Reading
Art Exhibit



October 29, 30, 31
at the Peretz Centre

Tickets to all events available at the door.
Festival passes available.
For detailed schedule, see page 4.



AGM: November 7

Annual Banquet: November 27

Latke-making party: December 5

Chanukah party: December 12

Reserve your seat now for our annual banquet and the grand opening of the Paula and Shaya Kirman Library

We invite you to the Peretz Centre's major annual fundraiser. This year, we are honouring the people who transformed boxes and boxes of books, in storage during our reconstruction, into a valuable resource for students, researchers and the public, the only Yiddish library west of Montreal. Come, enjoy a fabulous brisket or vegetarian dinner and great entertainment and take a tour of the library.

Adults: \$20. Children 6-13: \$10. Children under 6: free.

Advance Reservations Required: 604-325-1812

November 27, 6:00 PM

Fraytik Tsu Nakht

Please join us for our popular monthly secular shabbes observation: Candle lighting, wine, challah, a fabulous potluck meal, and a talk by a guest speaker

November 12, 6:30 PM: Gal Dor, *The Role of the Supreme Court as Mediator between the State and Society in Israel.*

To attend, you may bring a dish (couples please bring double-sized dish or two dishes) **or** pay \$10/person.

Please RSVP to Gallia, 604-322-6077.

The second of three reports from our delegates to the CSJO youth conference in Philadelphia last May.

Attending the CSJO conference this year was an enjoyable experience for me. I found the people to be very friendly and social. Almost all of the younger attendees had been through similar programs to what I had been through at the Peretz Centre.

The workshop discussions were fascinating and it was refreshing to meet new people who shared the same views as me. Many of the workshops included both youth and adults.

At night, however, the adults were not allowed in the youth dorms. The late night festivities included watching movies, playing cards and playing Ultimate. They were fun and a good way to make friends with other youth.

The multi-generational lunch was an interesting way to get the young adults and adults to intermingle and it worked well. The talent show was a very enjoyable experience as well. Youth and adults performed everything from comedy routines to playing guitar, to singing and dancing; and everyone was talented.

Although the conference lasted only a weekend, it was well worth the long travel. I am hoping to attend the conference again in 2005.

Attending the conference was beneficial to the Peretz community.

As a young adult, I found that I was, like others before me, drifting away from the Peretz Centre after my bar mitzvah. The reason was not because I was uninterested in secular Judaism, it was because I was too old for almost all of the youth programs and too young for the adult ones. This conference showed me that there are ways to get young adults involved in the secular Jewish community.

Another reason the conference was beneficial was that it vastly expanded my contacts in the secular Jewish community.

Also, because it was so enjoyable for the group that attended, more people may be interested in becoming involved in the larger secular Jewish community across North America.

—Anton Friedman

Support the Youth Fund: buy a book

Check it out: the Youth Fund Pulp Fiction Bookshelf, located in the lobby, contains lots of mysteries, science fiction, and some literature, fiction and non-fiction; mostly paperbacks. \$2 each.

And to make room on your shelves for your new books, we'll be happy to accept your donation of some of your old ones.



Welcome, new members Laura Lamb and Chana Luber, and welcome back, renewed members!



We invite you to join the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir - call 604-325-1812 for information

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 2004, 10:30 AM

October 20, 2004

Dear Members and Friends,

You are cordially invited to the Annual General Meeting scheduled for **Sunday, November 7th, 2004 at 10:30 AM**, in the Seniors' Lounge on the main floor of the Peretz Centre, 6184 Ash Street, Vancouver.

The agenda will include the election of officers for 2004-2005, the annual Financial Report, the President's Report and other year-end reports.

Please be aware that only adult members (18 years of age or over) in good standing (i.e. paid members) are permitted to vote. You may take out or renew your membership at the meeting, or by contacting the office prior to the meeting.

We hope that you will consider running for the Board, joining a committee, volunteering, or in some way contributing.

We would also like to remind you to make your reservations for the Peretz Centre's annual fundraising banquet on November 27th, 6:00 pm.

We hope to see you at both events.

Yours truly,

David Skulski, President

Happy Chanukah

*to all our members
and friends!*



Chanukah Community

Sunday *December 12, 4:00 PM.*

Cost: \$5; children under 13 free

Light the menorah and enjoy presentations by the Sunday School and B'nai Mitzvah children and the Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir's Chanukah repertoire, including a sing-along section, followed by a pot luck early supper. We'll supply *latkes*, chocolate Chanukah *gelt*, *dreydlakh*, *sufganyot*, and entertainment; you supply food and shmooze – sounds like a great Chanukah party! Hope to see you there!



The Peretz Centre Emporium

is now open for business. Currently available and on display in the ground floor cases:

- ◆ A few of the old Vancouver Peretz Institute T-shirts, \$5
- ◆ *God Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews who Love their History, Heritage and Community*, Judith Seid, \$15
- ◆ *We Rejoice in our Heritage: Home Rituals for Secular and Humanistic Jews*, \$13
- ◆ *Kumzits! A Festivity of Instant Jewish Songs*, \$20
- ◆ *Humanistic Readings in Jewish Folklore*, Bennett Muraskin, \$25
- ◆ *Canadian Jewish Outlook Anthology*, \$10
- ◆ *Judaism: Myth, Legacy, History and Custom: From the Religious to the Secular*, Abraham Arnold, \$20

If you have Judaica books, craft items, or other Judaica you'd like to put up for consignment sale, please get in touch with the Coordinator. NEW ITEMS ONLY!

Latke-making Party at the Peretz Centre



Sunday, December 5, 10:30–12:30

Bring your spatula and a frying pan and let's make latkes, have a coffee and a shmooze. Everyone is invited. If your child is in Sunday School, this is a good way to pass the time.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

The latkes will be served at the Chanukah Community Sunday, December 12, 4:00.

!Festival Judío! Schedule

Friday October 29, 8:00 PM: Peña (cabaret-style party) featuring local entertainers from all over Latin America. Beer, wine and empanadas available for purchase. Admission: \$5.00.

Saturday October 30, 11:00–noon: Argentina-born writer-artist Silvana Goldemberg will lead a workshop for families, Play with Words/Juego con Palabras, in English and Spanish. Free.

Saturday October 30, 2:00–3:00: Play with Words/Juego con Palabras workshop for adults.

Saturday October 30, 3:30–4:30: Silvana Goldemberg will read from works by Latin American Jewish writers. In Spanish. Free.

Saturday October 30, 8:00 PM: Direct from Mexico, Jewish-Mexican soprano Susana Herner in a concert of works ranging from Bernstein to Mexican folk music. \$15/students and seniors, \$18/adults.

Sunday October 31, 11:00 AM: Lecture, *The Jewish Communities of Latin America*, by Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky, world renowned

authority on Latin American Jewish culture. \$6.00, includes light lunch.

Sunday October 31, 1:30 PM: Screening of *Novia que te vea* ("Bride to be" – Spanish with English subtitles) by Jewish-Mexican filmmaker Guita Schyfter. \$8/students and seniors, \$10/adults.

Art work by Nora Patrich, Miriam Aroeste and others will be on display throughout the Festival. Festival passes are available for \$25/students and seniors, \$30/adults.

A Sheynem Dank!

This year's Rosh Hashana-Yom Kippur program was the best one in recent memory. There was a great feeling of community and connection amongst the 90 or so people who participated: just what we at the Peretz Centre always aim to achieve. Thank you for being part of it.

A special thanks to the people who made it possible. To single out just a few:

The Program Committee, chaired by Seemah Berson, for organizing a smooth-running and meaningful observance

David Berson, shofar-nik extraordinaire, for stepping in on short notice

Karen Kaplan for once again contributing her awesome kitchen management skills, and to everyone who helped set up and clean up

All you fabulous cooks (and thoughtful shoppers) who brought all that delicious food

The Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir for leading the singing from amongst the audience, and especially conductor David Millard, who found himself with a larger than usual choir to direct, and accompanist Elliott Dainow and soloist Andi Alexander, who donated their time

Finally, the readers of our "mahzor", you did a great job.

—Donna MacDermot, Program Coordinator



Our volunteers are already hard at work preparing the brisket, salad, potatoes, vegetables and desserts for the Banquet!

Someone recently told me that "growing old isn't for sissies". To that I would add "neither is being President of the Peretz Centre" and certainly not producers of Festivals. All of the above, while presenting their respective challenges, also have their rewards. Although it is not yet behind us, I am already rewarded by the responses we have been getting for our Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture, one of the biggest events ever mounted by the Peretz Centre.



We are not neglecting our other activities and, while perhaps not as glamorous, I urge you to join us for our AGM on November 7. Who knows, maybe you will be the next author of this *vinkl*. Another "must" is our annual Banquet, which will double as the grand opening of the Paula and Shaya Kirman Library, on November 27 (don't forget your chequebook—with your help, we will continue to grow and fulfill our much-needed role as the home of Jewish Secular Humanism in Vancouver). And don't miss our Khaneke party on December 12.

I am very pleased to announce two new additions to our school. Harold Berson, long-time member and currently a member of the Board, has agreed to be our new "Curriculum Coordinator". As well as organizing an examination and revision of our school curriculum and supporting the teachers, Harold will team teach B'ney Mitsva '06 along with our other newcomer, writer/artist/teacher Silvana Goldemberg. Silvana, recently arrived in Canada, has taught at the I.L. Peretz School in Buenos Aires among other teaching assignments, as well as produced and directed children's theatre in Argentina and Israel. Although teachers Leslie and Shane Dyson are a tough act to follow, I am confident that, with Harold and Silvana at the helm, the B'ney Mitsva '06 class will be an experience these young people will cherish forever.

—David Skulski

Peretz Centre Schedule, November - December

***Last classes, December 12. School reopens January 9**

Youth

B'nai Mitsva '05: Nov. 7, 21, Dec. 5

B'nai Mitsva '06: Nov. 14, 28, Dec. 12

Sunday School: every Sunday, except as noted above* 10:30-12:30

JYPT: every Sunday, except as noted above* 10:30-12:30

Adults and Seniors

Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir rehearsal: Tuesdays, 7:30-9:45 PM.

Yiddish Class: Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 PM.

Fraytik Tsu Nakht (Friday night Secular-Humanist Shabbes celebration): Nov. 12: Gal Dor, *The Role of the Supreme Court as Mediator between the State and Society in Israel*.

Sholem Aleichem Seniors: Fridays, 10:30 AM.
Speakers and topics TBA

Special Events

- Oct. 29 -31 *¡Festival Judío!* Festival of Latin American Jewish Culture
- Oct. 30, 8:00 PM Music at the Peretz Centre: Susana Herner
- Nov. 7, 10:30 AM Annual General Meeting
- Nov. 27, 6:00 PM Annual Banquet
- Dec. 4, 8:00 PM Music at the Peretz Centre: Tzimmes
- Dec. 5, 10:30 AM Latke-making party
- Dec. 12, 4:00 PM Peretz Centre Chanuka Party
- Jan. 23, 11:00 AM Tu b'Shvat Seder
- Mar. 5, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre: Sara Davis Buechner
- Apr. 30, time TBA: Community Third Seder
- May 14, 8:00 PM: Music at the Peretz Centre: Lost Heritage Recovered
- Jun. 5, time TBA: Vancouver Jewish Folk Choir Spring Concert
- Jun. 18, time TBA: Closing Sunday

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604-726-0684

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ICBC, Extended Health, WCB Claims Accepted
Wellness Centre: 350-5870 Cambie St., Vancouver, BC V5Z 3A6



**We extend our condolences to
choir soloist Stephen Aberle
on the loss of his father, David.**

Thank you to Mr. Maurice Trojanowski, our former next door neighbour, who recently donated boxes of household linens and kitchenware, records (that's vinyl), and books. Watch for a Peretz Centre garage sale sometime in the Spring.

Mazel Tovs and In Memoriams

Send us your Mazel Tovs (births, milestone birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, etc.) and In Memoriams, and we will publish them in the Peretz Papers. If you make a donation in honour or in memory of someone, we will send a card on your behalf.